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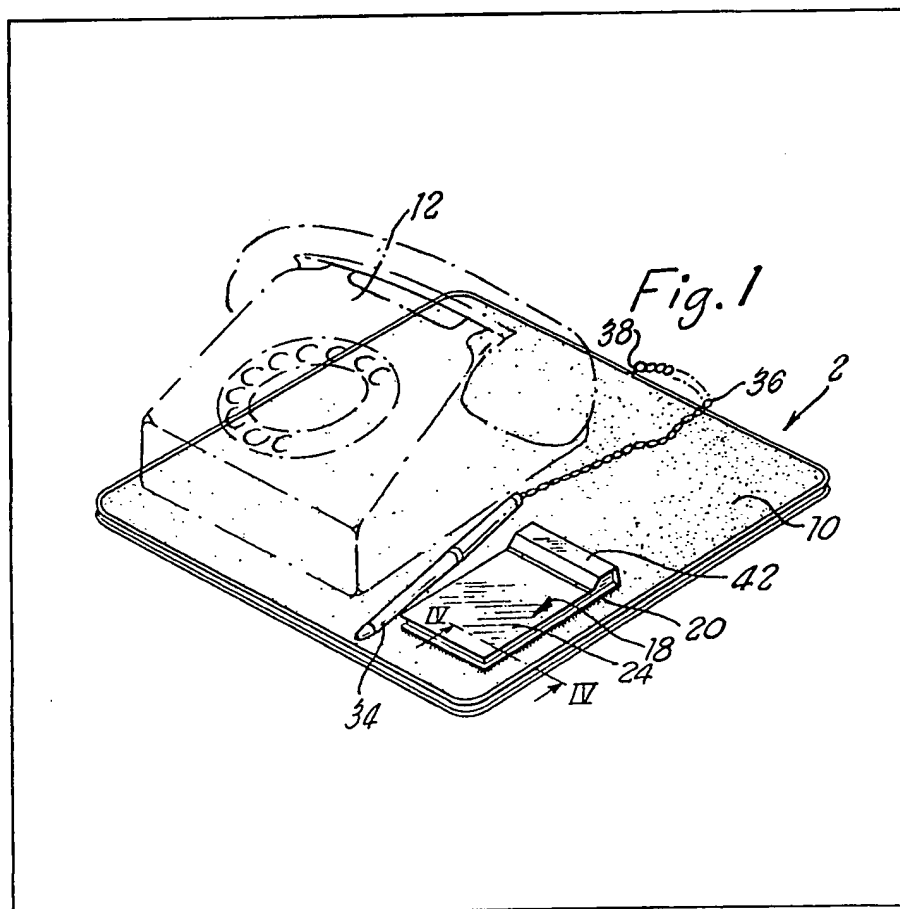
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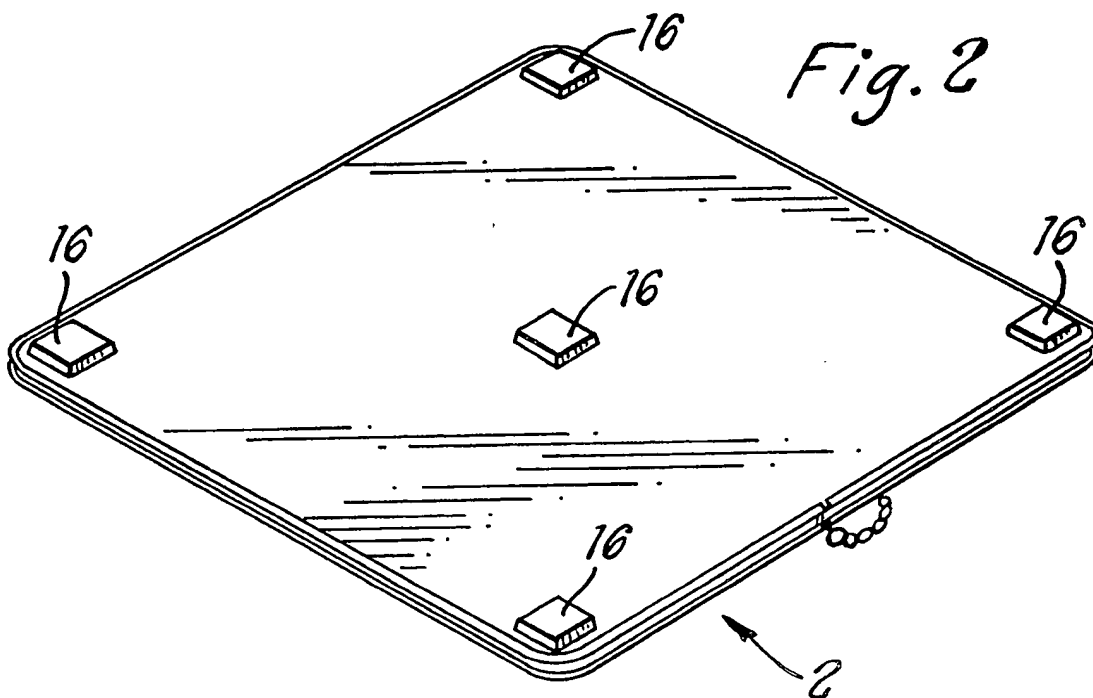
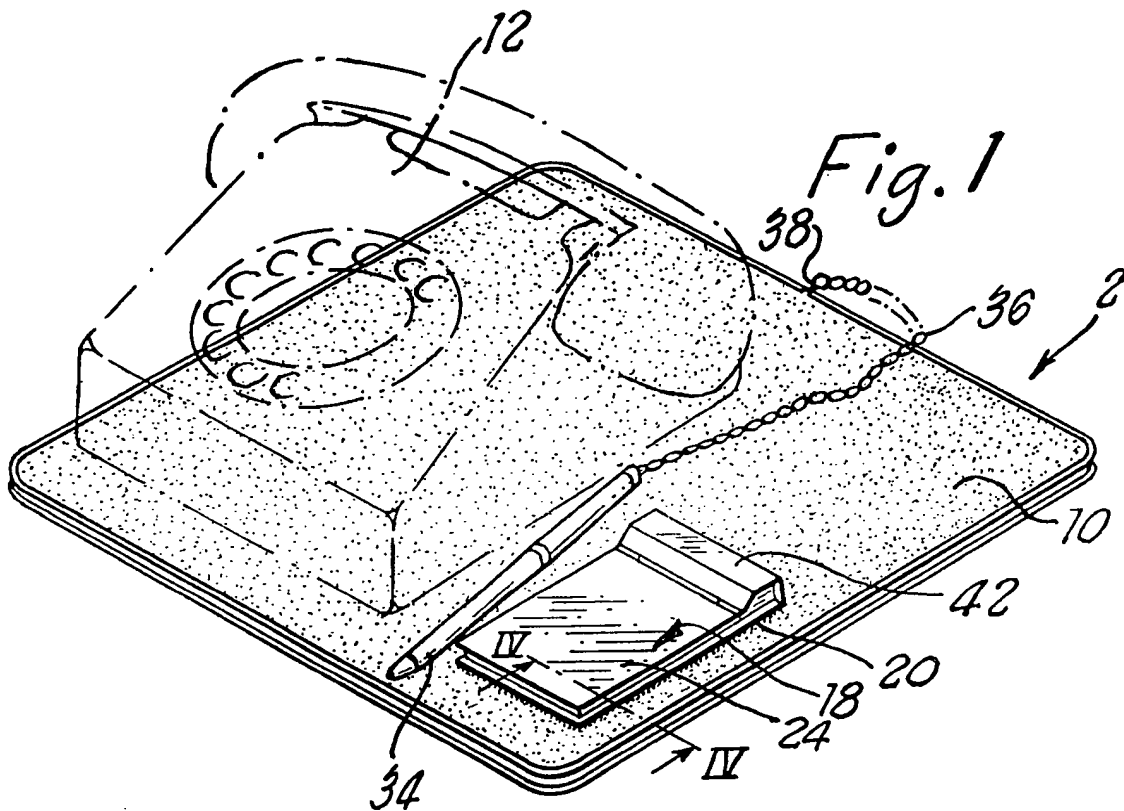
(54) Anti-slip devices

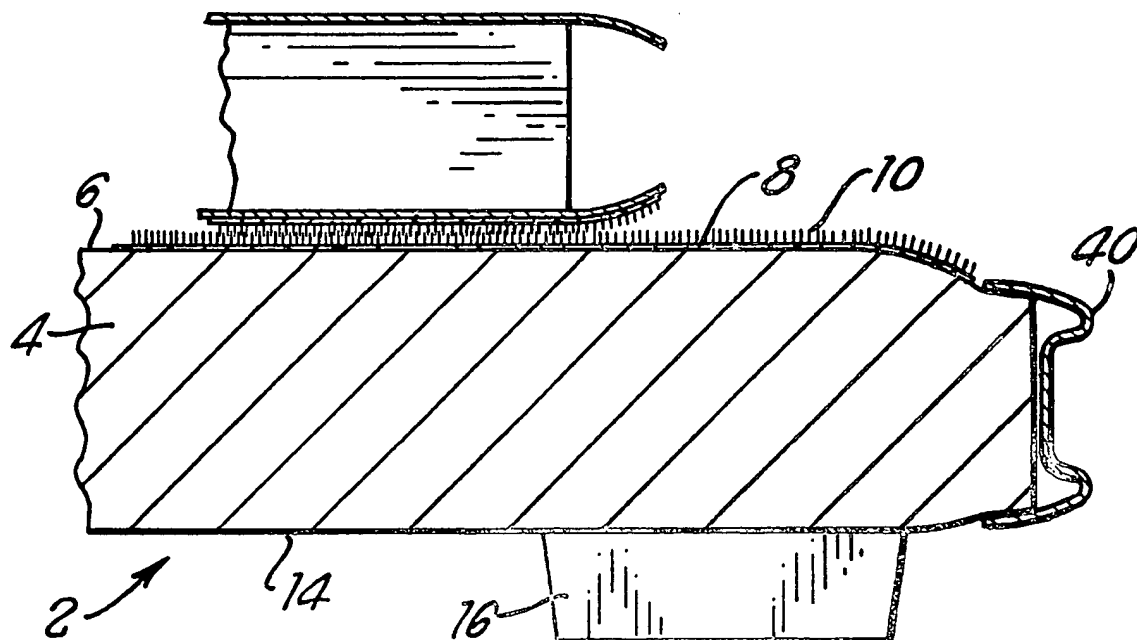
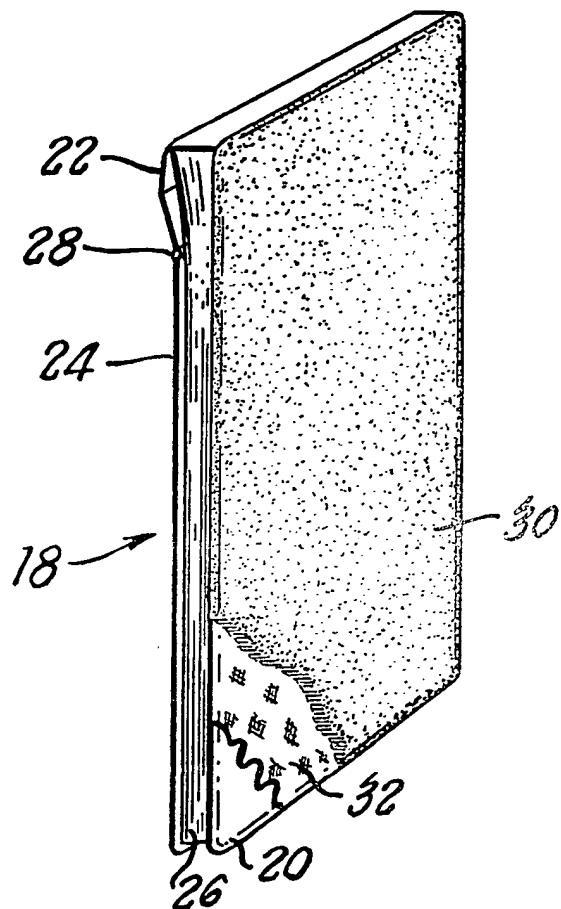
(57) A support tray 2 for supporting a telephone 12 and/or a note pad 18 is disclosed in which the upper surface is electrostatically flocked with a fibrous coating 10, the back surface of the note pad being similarly flocked when provided, so as to inhibit slipping between the upper surface of the tray and the telephone and/or note pad. The under surface of the tray is provided with means (16) to inhibit slipping relative to a supporting surface.



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1/2





SPECIFICATION

Anti-slip devices

5 This invention relates to anti-slip devices, and particularly concerns such devices for inhibiting slipping of articles, such as telephones or note pads, relative to a supporting surface.

The modern telephone is a relatively light instrument, and it is commonly placed upon a relatively smooth supporting surface, such as a desk or shelf. Consequently, the instrument may easily slip relative to the supporting surface for example if the user of the instrument moves the hand set away from the main body of the instrument a distance sufficient to cause tension in the wire to which the hand set is connected, as by reaching for some article required in the course of the telephone conversation while holding the hand set to his ear. Such movements may cause the main body of the instrument to slip from the supporting surface and fall to the floor, with consequent risk of damage.

25 In one preferred aspect, the present invention provides a support tray for interposition between an article to be supported, such as a telephone, and a supporting surface, said tray being constructed to inhibit slipping of the article relative thereto and to inhibit slipping of the tray relative to the supporting surface.

In a preferred embodiment, the tray comprises an upper surface of relatively soft material. Preferably said upper surface is fibrous. 35 In a particularly preferred embodiment, the tray comprises a substrate flocked with fibrous material to form said upper surface. Preferably the flocking is carried out by an electrostatic flocking process. Preferably the bottom of the tray is provided with support elements, such as feet, of a material, such as natural or synthetic rubber or other synthetic plastics material, having the property of inhibiting slipping of the tray relative to the relatively smooth supporting surface.

Slipping of a note pad relative to a supporting surface, such as a desk, is also a problem, particularly when attempting to write notes on the note pad with one hand while the other hand is occupied, for example by holding a telephone.

In another preferred aspect, the invention provides a note pad or note pad backing member having a surface constructed for inhibiting slipping. In a further embodiment the invention provides a combination of a note pad backing member and a support tray for supporting the note pad backing member, said backing member and said tray being constructed to inhibit slipping of the backing member relative to the tray, and said tray being constructed to inhibit slipping thereof relative to a supporting surface. Preferably, the back surface of the backing member and the upper surface of the supporting tray are

ach formed of fibrous material so as to inhibit slipping. Preferably the fibrous material is provided on said surface by a flocking process, preferably an electrostatic flocking process.

Each of the above preferred aspects of the present invention may be combined into a single supporting tray for supporting both telephone and note pad.

75 The invention is described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a supporting tray and note pad, for use with a telephone, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, this perspective view showing the upper surface of the tray;

Figure 2 is a perspective view showing the rear surface of the tray of Fig. 1;

85 Figure 3 is a perspective view of the note pad showing the rear surface of a backing member thereof; and

Figure 4 is a partly sectioned view of the support tray and note pad of Fig. 1 showing the inter-engagement therebetween.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, a telephone and note pad support tray 2 comprises a rigid substrate 4 which is preferably a synthetic plastics laminate, but may be made of other materials, such as wood, having secured to its upper surface 6 by a layer of an adhesive 8, preferably an epoxy adhesive, a fibrous coating 10 formed by an electrostatic flocking process. Preferably the process used is as described in UK Patent 1 184 743. An electrostatic flocking process is used for forming the coating 10 since it results in a uniform coating in which the fibres stand substantially normal to the surface 6, as best seen in Fig. 4. It has been found that such a surface is resistant to slipping of telephones when placed thereon and thus, in use, the telephone 12, shown in broken lines in Fig. 1, is placed upon the surface 10 and does not easily slip relative thereto.

The lower surface 14 of the substrate 4 is provided with five slip resistant feet 16, one at each corner and one in the centre. The material from which these feet are made is chosen such that it resists slipping of the tray 2 relative to a somewhat smooth supporting surface, such as the surface of the wooden or metal desk or shelf. The preferred material for the feet 16 is an elastomeric material with a high coefficient of friction, such as rubber. The feet 16 are secured to the surface 14 by a suitable adhesive, such as an epoxy adhesive.

Thus, with the arrangement so far described, a telephone may be supported on the tray 2 which is in turn supported on a supporting surface such as a desk, so as to reduce the risk of the telephone slipping relative to the supporting surface.

130 Frequently when using the telephone, it is

necessary to make notes and accordingly, in the preferred embodiment of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings, the tray 2 is rather larger in area than the area of the base of the telephone, and also supports a note pad 18 which comprises a backing member 20, a resilient clip portion 22 and a front cover 24 containing a stack of paper 26. The backing member 20, clip portion 22 and front cover 24, which is hinged at 28 to the clip portion 22, are preferably made of a metal such as aluminium and form a case in which the supply of paper can be replaced as necessary. A fibrous coating 30 is formed on the back surface of the backing member or back cover 20 and adhered thereto by a layer of adhesive, preferably epoxy adhesive, 32. The fibrous coating 30 is formed by the same process, and is made of the same material, preferably nylon or other synthetic fibres, as that used for the coating 10.

In use, the note pad 18 is arranged on the tray 2 with the coatings 10 and 30 in engagement with each other. It has been found that with this arrangement, there is considerable resistance to slipping of the note pad relative to the tray 2. Thus, it is possible for a user of the telephone 12 to hold the telephone handset to his ear with one hand whilst writing notes with his other hand with little or no risk of the pad slipping relative to the tray or of the tray slipping relative to the supporting surface such as a desk.

For convenience, the device includes a ball point pen 34 attached to the tray 2 by a chain 36. The point of attachment 38 is preferably at the centre of one edge of the tray 2, so that the pen and pad may be arranged either to the left or the right of the telephone 12 according to whether the user is left handed or right handed.

A decorative strip 40, for example of chrome metal is secured to the tray 2 around its edges.

The tray 2 is preferably square although it could alternatively be rectangular or other shapes. Preferably the length of the sides are within the range 9 inches to 12 inches. A particularly preferred size is a 10 inch square, as this gives adequate room for both the telephone and the pad, without the tray requiring an excessive amount of space on the support surface.

Numerous modifications are possible within the scope of the invention. For example, instead of the coatings 10 and 30 being formed by an electrostatic flocking process as described in the above mentioned patent, they could alternatively be formed by other electrostatic flocking processes. Alternatively, they could be formed by non-electrostatic flocking processes but these are not preferred since they do not result in the fibres standing generally normal relative to the surfaces on which they are coated. As a further alternative, the

coatings could be replaced by a piece of textile material or velvet; however, whilst it should be understood that the invention covers such alternatives, the electrostatically flocked surfaces are much to be preferred, particularly as they have been found efficient for the intended purpose of inhibiting slipping and are extremely hard wearing.

Although in the preferred embodiment, the tray 2 is used for supporting both the telephone and the note pad, it is within the scope of the invention that such a tray may be used just for supporting a telephone, or just for supporting a note pad.

Although the note pad shown in the accompanying drawings has included a metallic cover, this is not essential. For example, note pads having just a cardboard backing member could be used, in which case the cardboard member would be provided with the coating 30 or the various alternatives thereto which have been mentioned.

It is also within the scope of the invention for a desk or other support surface to be provided with an anti-slip support area preferably arranged at a position convenient for a telephone or note pad. The anti-slip surface preferably comprises a fibrous coating preferably formed by an electrostatic flocking process. In this case, the support "tray" is therefore an integral part of a larger support member.

CLAIMS

1. A support tray for interposition between an article to be supported and a supporting surface, said tray being constructed to inhibit slipping of the article relative thereto and to inhibit slipping of the tray relative to the supporting surface.

2. A tray according to claim 1, wherein the upper surface is formed of relatively soft material.

3. A tray according to claim 2, wherein said material is fibrous.

4. A tray according to claim 3, wherein said upper surface is flocked with said fibrous material.

5. A tray according to claim 4, wherein said flocking was carried out by an electrostatic flocking process.

6. A tray according to claim 2, wherein said material comprises a plurality of fibres adhered to said upper surface and arranged substantially normal thereto to provide said soft surface.

7. A tray according to claim 6, where said fibres were applied to said tray by an electrostatic flocking process.

8. A tray according to any preceding claim, in which the under surface of the tray is provided with support elements of a material which inhibits slipping of the tray relative to the supporting surface.

9. A tray according to claim 8, wherein

said support elements are of elastomeric material having a high coefficient to friction.

10. A tray according to any preceding claim, in combination with a telephone supported thereon.

11. A tray according to any preceding claim, in combination with a note pad backing member in engagement with said upper surface and adapted to resist slipping of said backing member relative to said surface.

12. The combination according to claim 11, as dependent upon claim 11, wherein the note pad backing member has a fibrous coating thereon.

13. The combination according to claim 12, wherein the fibrous coating of the backing member comprises a plurality of fibres substantially normal to said surface of said backing member.

14. The combination according to claim 13, wherein said fibres have been applied to said backing member by an electrostatic flocking process.

15. The combination of a telephone and/or note pad backing member with a support surface therefor, said support surface having a fibrous coating thereon in which the fibres are substantially normal to said surface.

16. The combination according to claim 15, wherein said fibres have been applied to said surface by an electrostatic flocking process.

17. The combination according to claim 15 or 16, wherein said support surface comprises at least a portion of the surface of the desk or table.

18. A note pad backing member having a fibrous coating thereon, said fibrous coating comprising a plurality of fibres substantially normal to said surface.

19. A note pad backing member according to claim 18, wherein said coating has been applied by an electrostatic flocking process.

20. A tray substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

21. The combination of a tray, a telephone and a note pad backing member substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

22. A note pad backing member substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.